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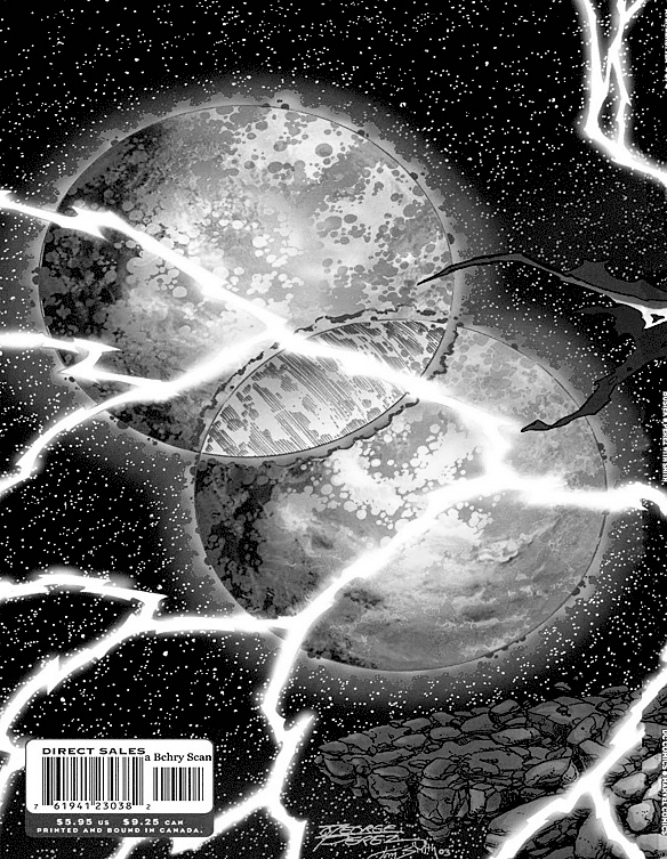
MARVEL

AVENGERS ★ JLA

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

4 of 4





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MARVEL

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BUSIEK • PÉREZ

4 OF 4



NUMBER FOUR

AVENGERS JLA

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

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HIS NAME IS KRONA...

RUTHLESS, IMMORTAL, HE SEEKS THE SECRET OF CREATION. A CLIMPE OF THE FORMATION OF HIS OWN UNIVERSE, OF STARS SWIRLING IN A COSMIC HAND, HAS SET HIM ON A QUEST TO LEARN THE TRUTH AT ANY COST. CAST FROM HIS HOME REALITY, HE WANDERS THE MULTIVERSE, DESTROYING REALITIES IN HIS DESIRE TO SEE WHAT GIVES THEM BIRTH.

IN TIME, HE ENCOUNTERS THE GRANDMASTER, WHO SEEKS TO PRESERVE HIS REALITY BY CHALLENGING KRONA TO A GAME. TEMPTED BY THE PRIZE -- THE SECRETS OF CALACTUS, A BEING WHO LIVED THROUGH THE BIG BANG -- KRONA AGREES. THE GAME IS PLAYED OUT BY THE AVENGERS AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, THE CHAMPIONS OF TWO UNIVERSES --

-- BUT THE GAME IS A FEINT, A RUSE THAT ALLOWS THE GRANDMASTER TO ASSEMBLE TWELVE ARTIFACTS OF GREAT POWER. WHEN KRONA LOSES, HE ATTACKS THE GRANDMASTER AND BEGINS TO SEIZE HIS PRIZE. BUT THE GRANDMASTER USES THE ARTIFACTS TO BRING THE TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER, TRAPPING KRONA BETWEEN THEM.

KRONA IS TRAPPED -- BUT NOT HELPLESS. NOW HE HAS THE ARTIFACTS -- AND HE USES THEM TO FORCE THE UNIVERSES CLOSER TOGETHER, BEGINNING TO MERGE THEM INTO ONE.

THE EFFECT IS CATACLYSMIC. THE REALITIES ARE INCOMPATIBLE. REALITY BEGINS TO WARP UNPREDICTABLY. UPHEAVALS THREATEN TO DESTROY BOTH.

THE JLA AND THE AVENGERS, THEIR MEMORIES CHANGING AS REALITY DOES, DISCOVER THE TRUTH AND STAVE OFF DISASTER TEMPORARILY. THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE GRANDMASTER, FINDING HIM WOUNDED, WEAK.

THEY LEARN WHAT THEIR REALITIES WERE -- WHAT THEY SHOULD BE. AND THEY'RE SHOCKED BY THEIR TRUE HISTORY, WHICH HOLDS NOT ONLY HEROISM AND TRIUMPH, BUT DEATH, MADNESS AND LOSS. HARDEST HIT ARE YELLOWJACKET AND THE WASP, WHO SEE THEIR MARRIAGE FAIL, THE FLASH AND GREEN LANTERN, WHO SEE THEMSELVES DIE, AND THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH, WHO SEE CHILDREN TORN FROM THEM, LOST FOREVER.

STILL, THEY CHOOSE TO FIGHT. TO RESTORE THE TRUTH. THEY'LL HAVE TO DO IT WITHOUT THE GRANDMASTER, THOUGH. THE GRANDMASTER IS DEAD...

PROLOGUE:

YOU
SEE? YOU
SEE?

THEY KNEW
THEY WERE DYING.
THE PEOPLE OF TAA!
KNEW THEIR UNIVERSE
WAS DOOMED!

BUT THEY DID
NOT GO QUIETLY.
THEY FOUGHT--TO
THE END!

THE
LAST OF
THEM MANNED
A SHIP--

--AIMED
IT FOR THE
TERMINAL POINT--
INTO WHICH ALL
MATTER WAS
COLLAPSING--

AS THEY FLEW,
THEY DIED--SUCCEMDED
TO THE UNIVERSAL DECAY
THAT HAD ROBBED THEIR
WORLD OF LIFE.

THEY
DIED--

--ALL BUT
ONE.

ONE SURVIVOR--
ONE MAN, ONE
MIND--

--WHO PLUNGED
INTO THE SEETHING
CAULDRON OF THE
TERMINAL POINT. AND
LISTEN--LISTEN--!

HEAR ME, LAST
SON OF TAA--I AM THE
SENTIENCE OF THE
UNIVERSE!

THOUGH WE BOTH
MUST DIE, WE NEED NOT
DIE WITHOUT AN HEIR. COME,
SURRENDER YOURSELF TO
MY FIERY EMBRACE, AND
LET US BECOME AS--

AND BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH BLAH! HE
WAS REBORN, THAT LAST
SURVIVOR, EMERGING IN
THE UNIVERSE TO COME
AS GALACTUS!

THAT IS WHAT I
WRENCHED FROM
GALACTUS'S MIND--
THE SECRET OF HIS
BIRTH!

BUT DO
YOU SEE?
A VOICE IN ONE
UNIVERSE--A HAND
IN ANOTHER!

THERE IS A
SPIRIT THAT GIVES
LIFE TO UNIVERSES! A
CONSCIOUSNESS DEEP IN
THEIR VERY FABRIC!
THEY THINK! FEEL!
LIVE!



QUITE A DISCOVERY. QUITE A
BREAKTHROUGH.

SO, KRONA.
WHAT NOW?

IN THE NOTHINGNESS OF
THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL
VOID, TWO WORLDS--TWO
UNIVERSES--CONVULSE.
AND SHUDDER.

NOW?
I LEARN THE
TRUTH!

THAT FOOL,
THE GRANDMASTER--
HE THOUGHT ME
TRAPPED BY HIS DAMNABLE
POWER ITEMS! BUT I
WIELD THEIR ENERGIES
NOT, METRON--

--HERE, AT THE
POINT WHERE TWO
UNIVERSES--TWO COSMIC
SENTENCES--ARE JOINED
TOGETHER!

NOW I HOLD THE
UNIVERSES IN MY
GRIP, FORCING
THEM TO
MERGE!

I WILL FORCE
THEIR ANIMATING
SPIRITS OUT--
MAKE THEM GIVE
UP THE SECRETS
OF CREATION I
HAVE SOUGHT
FOR SO LONG!

I WILL
FINALLY--
FINALLY--
KNOW!

AND...IF THE UNIVERSES
CANNOT SURVIVE THE
STRAIN YOU ARE
PUTTING ON THEM?

SPFF!

IF
THEY DIE,
THEN DIE. IT
MATTERS
NOT.

ALL THAT
MATTERS--

--ALL THAT
MATTERS--

--IS THE
END OF MY
LONG
QUEST!

PROLOGUE
ENDS.

AND BEGIN TO
CRUMBLE.

And Once Upon a Time
There was a Mighty
Danger.

DC COMICS & MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENT:
THE BATTLE OF THE MILLENNIUM!

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES: THE WORLD'S GREATEST
SUPER HEROES.

THE AVENGERS & THE JLA

UNITED AT LAST!

BOOK FOUR:

The BRAVE... and the BOLD

ONE OF THOSE
WORLDS.

NEW YORK.



RELAX, KID.
YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
AND EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.
IT'S ALL GONNA
BE ALL RIGHT.

--ENCY
OPERATIONS
CONTINUE--

--AS THE
WORLDWIDE OUTBREAK OF
EARTHQUAKES, FIRES AND
WEATHER INVERSIONS
ENTERS ITS THIRD--



I HOPE.



MAN! IT'S NOT
SLOWING
DOWN--!

THEN
NEITHER DO WE,
SPEEDBALL.

WE GO AS
LONG AS IT
TAKES!

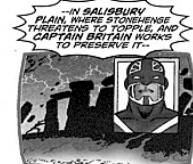


--DO WE
STOP IT,
TANIA?

WE DON'T! THIS
IS ALL JUST A
SYMPTOM! ALL WE
CAN DO IS TREAT
IT--

--EARTH'S
SUPERHUMANS
PRESSED TO THE
LIMIT, AROUND
THE WORLD--

--UNTIL
SOMEONE ELSE
FINDS A CURE!



--IN SALISBURY
PLAIN, WHERE STONEHENG
THREATENS TO TOPPLE, AND
CAPTAIN BRITAIN WORKS
TO PRESERVE IT--



--JERUSALEM, WHERE
ISRAELI HERO SABRA
PROTECTS THE WALLING
FROM THE LATEST
WAVE OF--



--WORD OF THE
AVENGERS?

THEY'RE
WORKING ON
THE PROBLEM.
EVERYTHING
IS UNDER
CONTROL...

THE OTHER
WORLD.

ANOTHER
NEW YORK.

M-MOVE
IT GUYS! CANT
H-HOLD--!

SURE
YOU CAN, FEW SECONDS
LONGER!

JUST A
FEW SECONDS
LONGER!

--ACUATION
NEARLY COMPLETE,
THANKS TO THE
OUTSIDERS, INFINITY
INC. AND THE
TEEN--

EXCUSE THE
INTERRUPTION, CAPTAIN,
BUT THERE SEEM TO BE NEW
DEVELOPMENTS.

WE SWITCH
YOU NOW--

LOIS LANE
LIVE FROM
COS-ONE

LANA LANG

--HAVE BEGUN
SHIFTING AND
CHURNING.

THE
TITANS ARE
INVESTIGATING,
BUT--

HOLY
COW!

AS IF IT
WASNT BAD
ENOUGH--NOW
WE GOT
DINOSAURS!

YEAH,
CHANGELING.
WE'RE NOT
BLIND.

TIME
FLUXES, WHAT
NEXT--?

--STILL NO
NEWS FROM
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE?

COMMUNICATION
WITH THEIR LUNAR
HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN
SPOTTY, BUT WE'RE
CONFIDENT THEY'RE GIVING
THEIR FULL EFFORTS
TO THE CRISIS--

--AND WILL
HAVE A SOLUTION
SOON.

I SAID--

MORGAN EDGE



--NO!

THIS IS
MADNESS!

VISION...!

I'M GOING HOME!
GOING TO FIND MY
CHILDREN!

CALM YOURSELF,
AVENGER. LISTEN
TO REASON.

VISION, WE'RE
DOING WHAT
WE HAVE TO--
THERE'S NO
OTHER--

I DON'T ACCEPT THAT,
CAPTAIN! AND NEITHER
SHOULD YOU! IT VIOLATES
EVERY PRINCIPLE OF
LOGIC, OF REASON--!

YOU'VE BLINDLY ACCEPTED
WHAT THE GRANDMASTER
TOLD US--WHAT OUR OWN
MEMORIES NOW IS FALSE!
AND YOU'RE WILLING TO
SACRIFICE BILLIONS TO
THIS CRAZED IDEA OF A
RESTORED REALITY--

--A REALITY WHERE THE
THINGS THAT HAPPENED--
THAT WE WITNESSED--

I CAN'T BELIEVE
THEY'RE TRUE! I WON'T!
NOT MY SONS!
NOT--NNH!

IT'S--NOT--IT--
MAYBE YOU DON'T
CARE ABOUT SAVING
INNOCENTS, BUT--

VISION, IT'S
TRUE, IT'S ALL
TRUE.

THE CHAOS-MAGIC
ON THIS WORLD--IT'S
SO MUCH STRONGER
THAN AT HOME, AND I
CAN SEE EVERYTHING.
SEE THE WAY IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE.
REALITY AS
WE KNOW IT IS
WARPED--
UNSTABLE--

--AND IT'S AFFECTING EVEN
US. TWENTY MINUTES AGO,
WE NEVER HAD CHILDREN IN
FIVE MINUTES, WE MAY NOT
EVER HAVE BEEN MARRIED.
DON'T YOU SEE? WE CAN'T
PRESERVE THE WAY THINGS
ARE, BUT IF WE TRY TO
RESTORE WHAT WAS--

BUT...
THOMAS...
AND
WILLIAM...

A-ALL RIGHT, IF
IT IS TRULY THE
ONLY WAY, JUST--
JUST TELL ME...



...WHAT WE
MUST DO...

WE HAVE NO REAL IDEA WHAT
WE'LL BE UP AGAINST. KRONA HAS
A HISTORY OF MENTALLY ENTHRALLING
OTHERS, USING THEM AS
HIS SOLDIERS--

--AS HE
DID WITH SONAR
AND THOSE OTHERS
IN METROPOLIS.

EVEN AFTER
WE'VE FOUND
HIM, WE COULD BE
FACING ANYTHING--
ANYONE.

AND HE'LL
HAVE DEFENSES,
AS WELL.

EACH OF THE ARTIFACTS HE
CONTROLS IS POWERFUL ENOUGH
TO BE A THREAT ON ITS OWN.

HE'S
RUTHLESS, HE'S
MONOMANIACAL...

YES,
LANTERN, HE IS POWERFUL--
ANY WHO COULD SLAY THE
GRANDMASTER DOUBT BE
MIGHTY INDEED.

BUT HE IS A
VILLAIN. AND
WE ARE BENT
ON SMITING
HIM.

LET US SPEAK
NO MORE OF THE
DANGER--BUT OF HOW
TO REACH OUR GOAL.

WE'LL NEED A
WAY IN. THOR
MANAGED TO
BRING US HERE
FROM THE
GRANDMASTER'S
LAIR--

--BUT FINDING
OUR WAY TO
KRONA'S
STRONGHOLD
WILL BE
TRICKIER.

BARRY AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING.
WE HAVE A FEW IDEAS ON THAT
SCORE. WE'LL NEED GREEN LANTERN'S
HELP, AND THE VISIONS...

WE'LL NEED
A SHIP, AS
WELL.

AND MAYBE SOME
ENGINEERING
ASSISTANCE FROM
THE ATOM...

WE'LL ALL
DO WHAT
WE CAN.

BUT WE NEED A
COMMANDER--SOMEONE
WHO CAN LEAD BOTH TEAMS,
FUSE US INTO ONE.

I BELIEVE
THAT SHOULD BE
YOU, CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

HMP?

I'M FLATTERED, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE. THE CONFLICTING NATURE OF OUR TWO WORLDS HAS PUT US ON EDGE...FRAYED TEMPER, JUDGMENTS...

I KNOW.

BUT YOU'RE STILL THE MAN FOR THE JOB.

I CONCUR.

WELL, ALL RIGHT.

TEN POINTS FOR OUR SIDE!

ENOUGH, JAN. THIS ISN'T THE TIME.

I NEED TO BE CERTAIN. MANHUNTER--WILL THE LEAGUE FOLLOW MY LEAD? WITHOUT HESITATION?

I HAVE SCANNED OUR MINDS.

WE WILL.

ALL RIGHT.

WE MAY NOT KNOW WHAT WE'LL BE FACING, BUT WE CAN TRAIN TOGETHER, GET USED TO ONE ANOTHER'S STYLES.

PLUS, I HAVE A TRICK OR TWO IN MIND, BUT FIRST, TRANSPORTATION. AVENGERS, LEAGUE...

"...LET'S GET CRACKING."

THESE SENSORS--THEY ARE MOST UNUSUAL. THE CABLES ALONE ARE LIKE NOTHING I HAVE EVER SEEN...

ACES, VISION!

WITH YOUR COMPUTER-MIND, THIS'LL LET US REACT TO INCOMING DATA VIRTUALLY INSTANTANEOUSLY, MAKING ADJUSTMENTS AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT...

I'VE GOT THE HANG OF IT NOW, AQUAMAN. A GOOD SHIP--YOU'RE SURE SHE'LL HANDLE THE STRESSES?

THIS IS AN IMPERIAL ATLANTICAN WARCRRAFT, CAPTAIN.

SHE'LL TAKE THE FULL PRESSURE OF THE OCEAN'S DEEPEST TRENCHES--AND MORE.

THEY SHOULD BE. JOHN IRON MAN AND ATOM WHIPPED THEM UP... THEY'RE BUILT TO RUN ON MN RING-POWER.

THEY'LL CONVERT MN RING-SCANS TO DATA, FEED THEM TO THE ONBOARD SYSTEM...

I AM LINKED, HANK. PROCESSING TEST READINGS. ARE YOU GETTING THE RESULTS YOU HOPED FOR?

GREEN ON ALPHA QUADRANT. GREEN ON BETA QUADRANT...

I WOULD HAVE SWORN THIS WAS A FOUR-DAY JOB, IRON MAN. BUT YOU'VE TRIPLED BOTH THRUST AND MANEUVERABILITY IN MERE HOURS...

MAKE IT TONY, I'M JUST SORRY WE HAD TO DIVERT MOST OF THE CANNON-POWER TO DO IT.

I'M NOT. I DON'T MUCH LIKE GUNS.

IN HERE, RAY?

PERFECT!

NEXT, THE RED PLUG...

NEW READINGS...

YOU'RE VERY FOCUSED, WANDA.

YES, I'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.

"TONIGHT, WHEN
WE'RE WAITING FOR THE
DIMENSIONAL HARMONICS
TO BE RIGHT FOR TRANSFER..."

"...THAT'S WHEN
IT'LL BE HARD."

VISION...

YES,
MY LOVE.
I KNOW.

I KNOW.



JAN?

WHAT WE SAW, IN THE
"CORRECT" TIMELINE... JAN,
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, I CAN'T...
CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY
I AM FOR...

...FOR SOMETHING
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE
DOING.

IT'S...NOT
IMPORTANT,
HANK.

NOT...NOT
WHEN MEASURED
AGAINST THE
FATE OF TWO
WORLDS...

NO...I
GUESS NOT.
WE'RE JUST
SACRIFICING OUR
HAPPINESS.

OTHERS...

HAL?

AH.

...blackest
night.
No evil shall
escape my sight.
Let those who
worship evil's
might...

...beware
my power...
Green
Lantern's
light.
THERE.
READY.

YOU KNOW,
BARRY, WALLI'S
A GOOD KID.
IF HE'S YOUR
SUCCESSOR...
I'VE BEEN PROUD
TO KNOW HIM, TO
WORK WITH HIM.
YOU COULDN'T ASK
FOR BETTER.

THAT GUY WE SAW
WHO TAKES OVER
AS GL--HE LOOKED
PRETTY GOOD,
TOO.

MAYBE IT'S NOT
SO BAD TO DIE.
NOT IF YOU LEAVE
A LEGACY, IF YOU
KNOW SOMEONE'LL
STILL BE FIGHTING
FOR WHAT YOU
BELIEVED
IN.



IF ONLY THERE WAS ONE MORE DAN, ONE MORE COOKOUT WITH IRIS AND CAROL.

ONE MORE LOUD NIGHT OUT WITH OLLIE AND RALPH.



IT'S FUNNY, WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, I THOUGHT YOU WERE NICE ENOUGH, BUT AN ABSOLUTE CORNFED MIDWESTERN VOKEL.

THOSE JACKETS OF YOURS. THOSE ANFUL TIES...

HA!



AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SELF-SATISFIED COAST CITY SHARPIE. CONVINCED YOU WERE GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN AND SUCKER THAN SPIT.

IT SEEMS LIKE SO LONG AGO...



I'M GOING TO SEE IF THE COM-LINES ARE BETTER. TRY TO REACH INTO ONE LAST TIME.

GIVE HER MY LOVE.



A DIRE PURPOSE, YES. BUT WHAT AN ASSEMBLAGE! THE FINEST OF TWO WORLDS, WITH OUR UNPARALLELED NIGHT, AND THY NOBLE FIRE...

YOUR MIGHT, HM?

I MIGHT REVERE THOSE TWO, AFTER ALL, SUPERMAN AND YOU...

AYE. BUT I HAVE HIS MEASURE NOW, AND ANOTHER BOUT MIGHT WELL HOLD SURPRISES FOR THE... KRYPTONIAN, YOU SAID?

YES. EITHER WAY, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M GLAD WE'RE ALLIES NOW.



I JUST WISH IT WASN'T...



YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?

LOOK, I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE AGAIN FOR SOME OF THE HARSH...



PONT, YOU WEREN'T YOURSELF, NEITHER WAS I.

I KNOW, BUT I'LL CONFESS--I DO WORRY, SOMETIMES, ABOUT DOING TOO MUCH, DENIVING HUMANITY FREEDOM OF CHOICE...

THAT'S WHAT MADE IT STING, ISN'T IT?

THAT DEEP DOWN, WE BOTH KNOW IT MIGHT BE TRUE.

IN MY CASE, THAT AS HARD AS THE AVENGERS FIGHT... I FEAR SOMETIMES IT MAY NEVER BE ENOUGH.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I ASKED FOR YOU.

I'LL NEED YOU TO TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE ATTACK, BUT EVEN YOU AREN'T A MATCH FOR THE POWER KRONA CAN BRING TO BEAR.



I'LL BE IN THE COMMAND SHIP, COORDINATING THE ATTACK, SO...

...I'D LIKE YOU TO CARRY THIS.

I'M... I'M HONORED, CAPTAIN. I'LL DO MY BEST TO WIELD IT WELL.

I JUST HOPE WE'RE READY.

WELL...

"...WE'LL KNOW
SOON ENOUGH."

SO.

CH-CHK

THOU HAST
MJOLNIR'S
FULL POWER,
IRON MAN!

YON
DEVICE--
IT WILL
WORK?

I HOPE SO,
THOR.

IT'LL
WORK.

BY RIGHTS, IT
MAKES NO SENSE--
CONVERTING SPEED
TO A VIBRATIONAL
WAVE THAT SHIFTS
THE TEMPORO-
DIMENSIONAL
LOCUS--

IT WOULDN'T
WORK BACK
HOME--

READY?

NOT YET.

SENSORS?

FAN-REALITY
PROBES EXTENDED.
TREADMILL ENERGIES
MOUNTING--
MOUNTING--

KRONA'S SHIELDS
ARE STRONG,
BUT PERHAPS, IF
WE STRIKE AT
THE PRECISE--

AQUAMAN,
WANDA--
WE WILL NEED
FULL THRUST--
AND MAXIMUM
PROBABILITY
DISRUPTION--

--NOW!

AND IN AN INSTANT,
THE ATLANTIAN SHIP
SURGES FORWARD--

AND THE WALLS OF
THE WATCHTOWER
MELT AROUND THEM--

AND REALITY--

--CHANGES--

GREAT
GUARDIANS! STRONGHOLD--
IT'S--

IT'S
GALACTUS.

WE BUILT
IT FROM THE
REMAINS OF
GALACTUS.





KILL FOR
KRONA! DIE FOR
KRONA!

THE INTRUDERS'
SHIP! IT'S LANDING
JUST OVER THAT RISE!
WE'D BETTER--



GO COVER IN YOUR HOLES,
HUMAN! WE HAVE NO
NEED OF YOU!

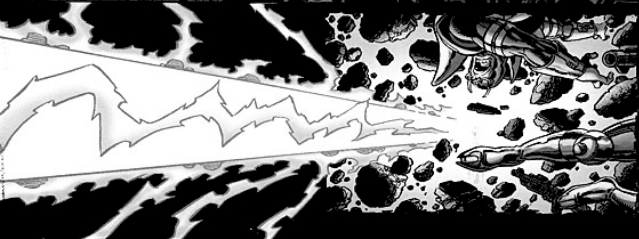
WHO-
EVER AND
WHATEVER
THEY ARE,
THE SHOCK-
TROOPS OF
AFOKOLIPS
WILL MAKE
SHORT
WORK
OF--



EH?

BY THE
FURY OF THE
INFERNAL
FIREPITS!
HOW--?

WHO--?



AND NOW,
LET THE CRY
RING OUT!

LET IT SHAKE THE
GROUND AND ROCK THE
FIRMAMENT ABOVE--

--THAT KRONA
SHALL KNOW--WE
COME FOR HIM!



SO.

HE REALLY
EXPECTS THIS TO
STOP US?

EFFE

AHH!

MINDLINK
ESTABLISHED.

CAPTAIN
AMERICA--
YOU ARE IN
COMMAND.

WONDER WOMAN,
GOLIATH,
AQUAMAN--

GET THE
ENEMY'S
ATTENTION--
AND HOLD
IT!

NO
PROBLEM!



AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!



AND JUSTICE LEAGUE,
UH--LAMBASTE!

THANK
YOU, J'ONN.
ALL RIGHT--
WE'RE ON
UNKNOWN
TERRAIN AND
UNDER
ASSAULT.

FIRST PRIORITIES--
BEACHHEAD AND
RECONNAISSANCE!

HUU!

UHH!

LANTERN,
THOR--
SPLIT THEIR
RANKS!

ATOM,
VISION--I
WANT YOU ON THE
FAR SIDE OF THE
LINES, FINDING
OUT WHAT'S
NEXT!

I'LL SAY
THIS--THE MAN
KNOWS WHAT HE
WANTS. HE ALWAYS
THIS IMPRESSIVE,
VISION?

ALWAYS.



HANK! TAKE AWAY
THEIR FIREPOWER!
WANDA--SEE IF YOU
CAN SENSE ANY
ENERGY-
FLUXES--



--PREDICT THE
NEW ASSAULT!
BEFORE THEY
HIT!



I'LL DO
MY BEST,
CAP!



IRON MAN,
AQUAMAN--



--MOLODS AT
TWO O'CLOCK!



THIS IS SO STRANGE--
GETTING COMMANDS LIKE
THIS, RIGHT INSIDE MY
SKULL...



YOU GET
USED TO IT,
IN TIME.



LANTERN, DIANA,
J'ONN--HUMANOIDS TO
YOUR LEFT! GET THEIR
SPECS FROM MY
MEMORIES!



SUPERMAN,
THOR--



--COMING
IN FROM THE
NORTH, DON'T
KNOW THEM--



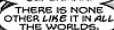
DON'T WORRY,
CAPTAIN--THEY WON'T
BE AROUND LONG
ENOUGH FOR IT TO
MATTER!



AND WHERE
CAN I GET ONE
OF THESE
SHIELDS--IT'S
FANTASTIC!



ENJOY IT
WHILE THOU CANST,
SUPERMAN.



THERE IS NONE
OTHER LIKE IT IN ALL
THE WORLDS.



OKAY,
WE'RE HOLDING
EM OFF--



--BUT THAT'S
NOT ENOUGH!
FLASH, WASH,
EAST AND
WEST--



--SEE IF WE
CAN GO AROUND,
RATHER THAN
THROUGH!



SOME SORT
OF CABLES,
GENERATING A
FIELD-WALL--
PROBABLY
LETHAL!



I
WOULDN'T
WANT TO TRY
GOING
THROUGH
IT--

BUT IT'S
IRREGULAR,
AS IF IT'S BEEN
HASTILY
BUILT!

THERE
ARE GAPS,
WHERE A
SINGLE MAN
COULD--

GOOD.

BATMAN, I
WANT YOU THROUGH
THAT FIELD--FIND THE
CONTROL STATION
FOR IT AND
SHUT IT--

BATMAN?

HE WON'T,
CAP, BUT DON'T
WORRY, HE'S LIKE
THAT WITH ALL
OF--

--HUH?

OH.

WELL, GIVE
A SHOUT IF
YOU NEED ANY
HELP.

THAT
NOISE--THAT
LIGHT!

WHAT ON
EARTH--?

IT'S SOME
SORT OF WAVE,
CAP--RIPPLING
THROUGH THE
WHOLE
AREA!

BUT
IT'S WILD,
CHAOTIC--IT'S
NOT ANYTHING
KRONA COULD
HAVE--

--EH?

HUH?
WHERE--?

SHEESH! SOMEBODY TELL ME
NEVER TO EAT
ANCHOVY PIZZA
RIGHT BEFORE
BED AGAIN--!

IT'S NO
DREAM, CLINT!
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT IS, BUT
YOU'RE HERE,
WANDA'S
GONE--

IT'S SOME
SORT OF CHRONAL
INSTABILITY! THE
ENERGY THAT'S BEEN
MAKING OUR WORLDS
GO CRAZY--IT'S
REACHED HERE,
NOW--

--AND IT'S
AFFECTING US!
OUR UNIFORMS, OUR
ROSTERS--!



WE
DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR
THIS!

HUNK?

JOHN, UPDATE
THE NEWCOMERS--FEED
A STATUS BULLET DIRECT
INTO THEIR MINDS!

QUICKSILVER,
JOIN THE SCOUTS--



NICE TO SEE YOU,
TOO, CAP...!

GREEN
ARROW--HAWKE--
COVER OUR FLANKS!



SO, HAWKE, YOU HAVE
ANY PROBLEMS--LIKE MAYBE
WITH THOSE TWO ON THE
RIDGE--I CAN--

I GOT 'EM, I
GOT 'EM!

YOU CAN SHUT
YOUR PIE-HOLE
ANY TIME,
YOU--



ARROW!

WHO--?



CAN'T SAY I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE EITHER,
TALL-PALE-AND-
CRIMSON--

--BUT IF THE
ROYAL FLUSH
GANG'S TARGETED
YOU FOR DEATH,
THEN--

--WELL, I
DON'T KNOW WHY
WE'D HAVE DONE
THAT, BUT--

SHUT UP,
JACK! KRONA
SAWS HE
DIES--

SO HE
DIES!



YOUR DEFENSES
SEEM QUITE
EFFICIENT,
KRONA.
YOU
HAVE HAD
TO INCREASE
THE CALIBER OF
YOUR THRALLS
SOMEWHAT,
BUT --

NEVER
MIND THAT,
METRON--

--THERE IS MORE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO.

WITH THE ENERGIES I AM DRAWING FROM THE TWO UNIVERSES, THEY WILL NOT REMAIN COHERENT MUCH LONGER--

--NOR WILL THIS OASIS BETWEEN THEM.

BUT I HAVE LOCATED THE UNIVERSAL AVATARS--THE CONSCIOUSNESSES OF THE TWO REALMS--AND SEIZED THEM.

I MUST HAVE MY ANSWERS SOON--BEFORE THEY ARE ANNIHILATED! AID ME, METRON--
--HELP ME FORCE THEM TO AN ACCOUNTING!

WHAT? DON'T MAKE JOKES, METRON! YOU ARE THE ONE WHO LED ME TO THE AVENGERS' UNIVERSE. HELPED ME SEE ITS POSSIBILITIES!

YOU CANNOT BACK OUT NOW. ARE WE NOT BOTH TRUTH-SEEKERS?

ARE WE?

EH?

ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOU TRULY SEEK, KRONA. ASK YOURSELF HONESTLY. IS IT TRUTH? ANSWERS? OR IS IT CONQUEST?

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, I LEAVE UP TO YOU. BUT I SHALL BE WATCHING.

AND BELIEVE ME...

DOOM



"...I WILL BE
VERY INTERESTED
IN THE OUTCOME..."

BATMAN
TO CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

THE FIELD
GENERATORS
ARE DOWN -- A
FEW EXPLOSIVE
CHARGES TOOK
CARE OF THEM. SEND
THE OTHERS
THROUGH.

I'M SCOUTING
FURTHER, TO SEE
IF I CAN FIND AN
UNDEFENDED
PATH TO--

--TO--
SNNE

ALLO, MON AMI! ZAT IS YOUR
JAN -- AND ZIS IS ZE FOOT
OF BATROC--

--BATROC,
ZE LEAPAIR!

UHH!

ZE VOICE IN MA
TETE -- MY HEAD --
TELLS ME YOU ARE A
MOS' SKILLFUL FIGHTER.
AN BATROC, HE LOVES
TO MEET ZE SKILLFUL
FIGHTERS!

LET US SEE
WHICH OF US IS ZE
MOST SKILLFUL, HEIN?

Ahp... Ahp...



WHERE'D
THOSE GUNS COME
FROM? WHERE'D THAT
ENERGY-BARRIER
COME FROM?

COME TO THINK
OF IT, WHERE'D HE
COME FROM?

WELL, IT
COULD BE THE
ENERGY-BARRIER'S
PART OF THE
AUTOMATIC
DEFENSES,
AND--

OH,
WHY AM I EVEN
ANSWERING?



THE
WINGS AND WHEREFORES
MATTER NOT,
MALLEABLE
ONES!

WE HAVE
AN OBSTACLE
BEFORE US--

--AND IT
SHALL NOT
STAND!



YEAH? HOW'S
THIS FOR AN
OBSTACLE, YOU
BIG APE?

AIIHH! MY
EARS!

SCREAMING
MIMI!--



WHO CARES WHO
SHE IS, HERC?
SHE STEALS MY
SHINICK -- SHE'S
TOAST!

AAAAAAH!



VERY
IMPRESSIVE,
BLACK CANARY.

YOU HAVE
DOWNED A POSTURING
MORON. WILL YOU DO AS
WELL, I WONDER--

--WITH
THE REST
OF US?!

WE CAN
TRY, FELIX
FAUST!



YOUR
ENERGY WALL,
FOR INSTANCE--

--WILL ONLY
PROTECT YOU... AS
LONG AS IT STANDS!



GOOD, RED
TORNADO. GOOD!
KEEP IT UP!

THE REST
OF YOU THROUGH
THE GAP! WE'RE
TWO LEVELS IN--
LET'S MAKE IT
THREE!

ESTABLISH
A BEACHHEAD,
AND SPREAD OUT
FROM THERE! WE'LL DO
THE SAME WITH THE
NEXT RING OF
DEFENSES--

--AND
THE NEXT --
UNTIL WE'RE
IN!

YOU
HEARD
THE MAN,
GANG!

WE
GO--



--AND WE
DON'T SLOW
DOWN!

WE'VE
FACED LONG
ODDS BEFORE--
AND BEAT
'EM!

WE'LL
DO IT AGAIN--
WE ALWAYS
DO!



SUPERMAN!
DOES THOR
NEED AID?

I'M--
ANNIE--ALL
RIGHT,
THOR!
BUT THE RED
TORNADO...

I SEE
THY CONCERN!
THE ENERGY
STORM--IT DOTH
THREATEN TO
OVERWHELM
HIM!
THE LORD
OF THE LIVING
LIGHTNING, THEN,
SHALL EASE HIS
BURDEN!

COME,
POWER MOST
UNHOLY!
COME--

--OBEY THY
MASTER!

YEAH?
SO, PURPLE
TWERP--

UH-OH. WHIRLWIND
AT 4 O'CLOCK,
GOLDLOCKS! BUT
NOT TO WORRY--
I GOT YOUR
BACK!

SHAKKE

--WHO'S GOT
YOURS?

UH.
GOOD
QUESTION.

WELL, NOT
MEANING TO BUTT
IN OR ANYTHING,
HAWKEYE--

--BUT
WILL I
DO?

IRON
MAN?

WONDY?
ANYONE?

WELL...
...SEEM AS
HOW YOU ASKED
NICELY...

THOSE
TWO. LAUGHING.
DEVIL-MAY-CARE.
INSPIRING.

THAT
WOULD
DO.





WOO. THE POWER--
I REMEMBER--
THE CUBE,
AND--



ENOW!

OUR RANKS
HATH LOST TWO
OF THEIR NOBLEST --
AND THEY DID FALL
FIGHTING BRAVELY,
GIVING NE'ER
AN INCH!

LET US
HEED THEIR
EXAMPLE--



--AND
LET THEIR
SACRIFICE BE
NOT IN
VAIN!



GOT
YOU, RAY!

THANKS,
UH--

WE HAVE
MET, RIGHT?
IT'S GETTING
SO HARD TO
TELL--



CAN'T
DO MUCH
WITHOUT
ARROWS,
SO--

SORRY,
HAWKEYE--



--YOU WERE
EVEN BETTER AT
BEING A PAIN IN THE
BUTT THAN ME, AND
THAT'S SAYIN'
SOMETHING--

--BUT I'LL
MAKE EVERY ONE
OF YOUR SHAPTS
COUNT.
EVERY ONE.



DON'T LET
UP!

YOU'VE
GOT 'EM
IN DISARRAY--
KEEP PUSHING!
BREAK THROUGH
THEIR LINES--THEN
TAKE 'EM FROM
BEHIND!

KEEP
PUSHING! KEEP
PUSHING!



AND THEY DO.

THEY DO.



THEIR OWN NUMBERS
SHIFT AND CHANGE
WITHOUT WARNING.

AND STILL
THEY FIGHT.



THEIR ENEMIES MULTIPLY
SEEMINGLY WITHOUT LIMIT.
AND STILL THEY FIGHT.



CHAOS ASSAILS THEM
ON ALL SIDES, AND ANY
LESSER HEROES WOULD
BE OVERWHELMED.

BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA'S
KEEN MIND COMPENSATES
FOR EVERY NEW SURPRISE.

JOHN JONES'S TELEPATHY
TRANSMITS HIS ORDERS
INSTANTLY TO WEARING
CHAMPIONS AND NEW
ARRIVALS ALIKE--





OH, NO!
THE MIND-LINK, IT'S GONE!

J'ONN?

MANHUNTER?
J'ONN? ARE YOU THERE?
J'ONN!
BLAST IT, CHRONAL CHAOS GOT HIM. I'D BETTER GET OUT THERE, AND--



YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE, CAPTAIN.

WHO?



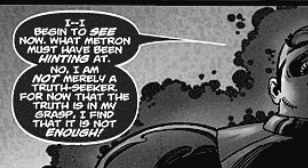
I'M PROMETHEUS. I'VE JUST UPLOADED BATMAN'S FIGHTING SKILLS.



THAT'LL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU.



OH?



I-I BEGIN TO SEE NOW. WHAT METRON MUST HAVE BEEN HINTING AT.

NO, I AM NOT MERELY A TRUTH-SEEKER. FOR NOW THAT THE TRUTH IS IN MY GRASP, I FIND THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH!



HE WAS FAST, AND QUITE SKILLED, FOR SUCH A--



YOU IN THE CAPE.

YOU DOWNED BATROC.

NOW FACE US.



GOOD DAY, BATMAN.

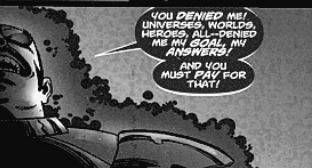
COULD YOU PERHAPS USE AN EXTRA HAND?



OR MAYBE SIX?



IF YOU'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO...



YOU DENIED ME! UNIVERSES, WORLDS, HEROES, ALL--DENIED ME MY GOAL, MY ANSWER!

AND YOU MUST PAY FOR THAT!



THE CITADEL!

SOMETHING'S--
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING--!

WE'LL
GET THERE!
WE'LL
GET
THERE!



HAH!

UHH!

AH-AH!

BACK
OFF, YOU
TWO!

UH-
HAHH!

SHHKKK



HM?

THE
SHIELD--?

HUH?
WHORE
YOU?



NEURAL CHAFF,
HYPNOTIC LIGHTS,
PRE-PROGRAMMED
SKILLS.
TRY FIGHTING
THE WEHRMACHT,
MISTER--

--IT
TEACHES YOU
FOCUS!

UHHHHH!



AND ON
IT GOES.

THEY SMASH GUARD TOWERS,
GUN EMPLACEMENTS,
FORCE-FIELD WALLS.



EVERY VICTORY
HARD-FOUGHT.



EVERY INCH OF GROUND PAID
FOR IN SWEAT AND BLOOD.



AND WHEN IT LOOKS,
FOR A MOMENT--



--LIKE THERE
MIGHT BE HOPE--



WE'VE
GOT THEM
ON THE
RUN.

YES,
AND--

WAIT.
AT THE
CITADEL!
WHAT'S--



I'M...I'M BACK!
WHEREVER I WAS,
I TRACED MY PATH
BACK VIA CHAOS-
MAGIC, AND--

OH, MY
LORD.

THAT'S
ETERNITY--
AND HIS COUNTERPART
FROM THE LEAGUE'S
UNIVERSE, NO
DOUBT!

IF KRONA
CAN IMPRISON
THEM...!



YOU
DENIED
ME! AND YOU
WILL DIE
FOR IT!

ALREADY YOUR
STRENGTH FAILS!
ALREADY YOU SUFFER
AND WRITHE, WHOLE
GALAXIES
COLLAPSING
WITHIN YOU!
SEEK YOUR
PETTY TRUTHS,
METRON--



--I SHALL TEAR MINE FROM
THE CORPSES OF TWO
COSMUSES! I AM KRONA!
AND I DO NOT SEEK!

I
TAKE!



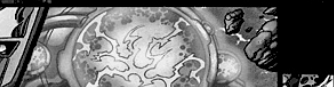
WANDA,
DOES WHAT
I'M SEEING
MEAN WHAT
I FEAR IT
DOES?

IT'S...BAD. I'M TRYING
TO REACH INTO THE
CHAOS-FIELD--BRING
MORE OF US THROUGH.
KEEP MORE OF
THEM OUT--

BUT JAN,
I CAN TELL...
WE'RE ALMOST
OUT OF TIME...!



READY--
STEADY--



--NOW!

WOW.

JUST...WOW. THIS DESIGN,
IRON MAN--THE SHEER POWER
OF IT--AND HOW FAST YOU
CAME UP WITH IT--

--I'M
JEALOUS AS
HELL.

YOU'RE
JEALOUS?

TELL ME WHERE I
CAN GET ONE OF THOSE
RINGS, FRIEND...

AAAAH!

THE
ROCKS--THE
GROUND--

THE WHOLE
CITADEL'S CRUMBLING,
COMING APART--!

WE'VE ONLY
GOT MINUTES LEFT--
AND NOT MANY!

HAH! OUR MASTER'S
MOMENT OF TRIUMPH
IS UPON US!

CRUSH THEM,
MY UNDERSEA LEGIONS!
CRUSH THEM IN THE NAME
OF ATTUMA, BARBARIAN
WARLORD OF THE
UNCHARTED--







BY THE BOW OF
ATHENA,
I SAY--



--NO
MORE!



NOT...
WHILE I
LIVE...

HEY, STAR-
SHORTS!



THOUGHT I MIGHT HANG, IN CASE
YOU GET BORED. WE COULD TALK
GIRL TALK--

--YOU KNOW,
ASS-KICKING,
NAME-TAKING,
LIKE THAT.

AWE, AND
I STAND WITH
YOU AS WELL,
DAUGHTER.



I...AM
HONORED,
AND I THANK
YOU.

FORWARD,
THEN--
FOR THE
GLORY OF
GAEA!



WELL,
WELL.

"A" FOR EFFORT
BLUE-BOY--YOU'VE
REACHED THE
MASTERS' INNER
STRONGHOLD.

BUT THIS
IS AS FAR AS
YOU GO!

OH.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
STOP ME?



NO--BUT
PERHAPS WE
SHALL.

GH-UHH!



K-KRYPTONITE...!

HOW
STRANGE.

I WOULD
SWEAR THIS
WAVELENGTH OF
RADIATION WAS
MEANINGLESS
NONSENSE, BUT--

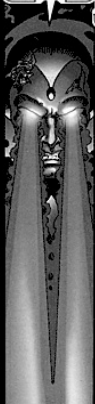
BUT THAT
BALD GUY WHO
SHOWED YOU HOW TO
DO IT KNEW HIS STUFF
AFTER ALL, EH,
RADIOACTIVE MAN?

JUST LIKE HE
TOLD ME THAT RED
SUN RADIATION
WOULD MESS UP OUR
BOY HERE--DRIVE OUT
THE JUICE HE NEEDS!

JKKKK
INTERNAL...
JGZKZ DAMAGE...
CANT...STAY
ACTIVE...

BUT IF JZKKK
SOLARR SPEAKS
TRUE...PERHAPS
I CAN...AID
SUPERMAN...

...WITH JKKKK
REMAINING
STORES...OF
SOLAR
ENERGY...



HHNNNNN...

ALL RIGHT...
RADIOACTIVE MAN,
WAS IT? AND
SOLARR?

A GOOD MAN
JUST DIED TO
GIVE ME ANOTHER
CHANCE AT YOU
AND YOUR
MASTER.
SO LET'S
TRY THIS AGAIN.
SHALL WE?





SO HOW'RE
WE DOING,
WANDA?

IT'S
HARD...HARD
TO TELL!

I THINK...WE'RE
BLOCKING KRONA
FROM BRINGING MORE
REINFORCEMENTS,
BUT...

...THERE MAY BE
ONLY SECONDS
LEFT...



BLAST IT!

THIS IS IT--
THE LAST WALL.
KRONA'S FINAL
LINE OF
DEFENSE!

BUT IT'S
ENERGIZED--



--SOME KIND OF
POWERFUL
FORCE-FIELD--

--AND I CAN'T--
CAN'T--

YOUR
STRUGGLES
ARE FUTILE,
STORMGOD.

YOU
CANNOT STAND
AGAINST US ALL--
YOU WILL FALL
HERE.

AYE?

PERHAPS--
PERHAPS I SHALL,
BUT--

SUPERMAN!



EK?



DO
THOU WELL
WITH IT!





**FOOLS.
POOR, DELUDED
FOOLS.**

**YOU THOUGHT
ME DISTRACTED,
INATTENTIVE TO
YOUR ATTACKS.
YOU WERE
WRONG.**

**I KNOW ALL
THAT HAS HAPPENED--
ALL THAT CAME HERE,
ALL THAT FOUGHT, ALL
THAT FELL. A MESE
FRACTION OF MY
MIND OBSERVED
EVERYTHING.**

**AND THIS IS
THE LAST OF YOU.
HELPLESS AGAINST
MY MIGHT.**

**YOU SAVE
YOUR ALL TO GET
THIS FAR, BUT YOU ARE
FINISHED. FINISHED
FOREVER.**

**HIS VOICE HAS A RASP
OF TRIUMPH TO IT, OF
CHALLENGE. AS IF
EXPECTING A REPLY.
ONE MORE ASSAULT.
ONE MORE FOE.**

**BUT HE KNOWS THERE
WILL BE NO ANSWER.**

THERE ARE NONE LEFT
TO OPPOSE HIS WILL.
NONE AT ALL.

HE SMILES, A THIN,
UNPLEASANT SMILE.

AND NOW,
MY RECALCITRANT
UNIVERSES, I TURN MY
FULL ATTENTION
TO YOU.

YOUR CHAMPIONS
STAVED OFF YOUR
DEATHS—BUT ONLY
BRIEFLY. NOW, YOU
SHALL...

WH—?

HEY THERE, KRONA.
LOOKS LIKE YOU
MISCOUNTED.

FLASH?
BUT—I SAW
YOU!
YOU DIED!

IF YOU
SAV SO, I'M
JUST THE
DISTRACTION,
BY THE
WAY.

WHAT?

NO!

HIVA. FLASH HERE GOT US OUT OF THAT
MYSTIC WHAMMY WITH OUR SKINS STILL
MOSTLY UNFRIED—

--AND CAP
THOUGHT WE'D
BETTER LAY LOW,
WAIT FOR THE RIGHT
OPPORTUNITY.

THIS WAS
IT.

OH, THAT
ARROW? LAST ONE I
HAD...

—A T.N.T.
ARROW.

NO!

NO, YOU
CAN'T--
MY
POWER! NOT
WHILE I STILL
HAVEN'T--

NOT
HALF BAD,
FLASH.

NO!

Noooooooooooooo!

LOOKS
LIKE THAT'S PUT AN
EGGBEATER INTO HIS
GIM SHORTS.

HUH?
WHAT...WHERE
AM I...
WAIT, WAS...
BARRY JUST
HERE...?



I'M...NOT SURE, BUT I THINK...WHATEVER THIS WAS, IT'S DONE.

YES, WALLY. THE CHRONAL CHAOS IS FADING.

MY HAND...
GONE AGAIN...



ALL THE BODIES--
OUR ALLIES, FALLEN
VILLAINS--THEY'VE
FADED AWAY.

YEAH.

LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
JUST
US...



...JUST THE
GUYS WHO
STARTED OUT
ON THIS WHOLE
SHEBANG.

AND IF ANYONE
KNOWS A GOOD
SUPER-STRONG
CHIROPRACTOR...
?NFF!?



WHY'S EVERYONE
SO SOMBER? WE
WON RIGHT?

YOU
WEREN'T
HERE FOR
MOST OF
IT. FLASH,
SO MANY
FALLEN--

--SO MANY
DEAD--



MAYBE NOT,
IRON MAN.
THERE'S STILL
A CHANCE...

WHY?
HEY!



CAP! AND THE
BIG GREEN
GUY!

THE OTHER
BIG GREEN
GUY!

YES. AND
AS I WAS
SAVING...

REALITY IS
REORDERING
ITSELF. WE DO
NOT KNOW WHAT
THAT WILL BRING.
BUT EVEN IF THIS
IS THE COST--

--WE CAN
TAKE SOLACE
IN THE FACT THAT
WE DID WHAT WAS
NECESSARY.



AND
THAT IT IS
OVER.

MAYBE
NOT.
LOOK.

HM?



THERE,
IN THE
SKY--

--SOME
SORT OF
RIPPLE--

WH-WHAT--?

GOOD
LORD! THE
TWIN
EARTHS--

A-ARE
THOSE--

--HANDS?

KRONA
AGAIN?

NO,
TRIATHLON...

...IT'S
NOT.

WE FOUGHT
BESIDE HIM EARLIER
TODAY. HE IS KAL JORDAN.
ONCE GREEN LANTERN.
NOW THE
SPECTRE.

HE IS ONE OF
THOSE WHO PAID
THE GREATEST COST
TO FIGHT THIS FIGHT,
AND EVEN NOW, EVEN
RETURNED TO THIS
STATE...

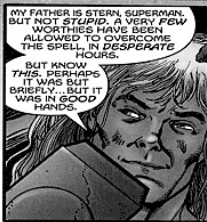
...HE
FIGHTS
ON.

I'M
IMPRESSED.

AND
THERE THEY
GO.

NICE,
BUT, Y'KNOW,
WITH THEM
SPLITTING
UP...

YEAH...



And once upon
a time...

as with all things
that happen
once upon a time...

LET'S GO! LET'S GO!

WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT
OF HERE--WHILE
THERE'S STILL A HERE
TO GET OUT OF!

AND I'LL
TELL YOU, WALLY,
WHEN WE GET BACK--

--IF MY
POWER-BATTERY
HASN'T BEEN
REALITY-RESTORED
TO MY APARTMENT--

--SOMEONE'S
IN BIG TROUBLE--!

... the tale reached
an ending.

CAPTAIN.

WHETHER WE
FEAR WE DO TOO
MUCH--OR NOT
ENOUGH--

WE KEEP
TRYING.

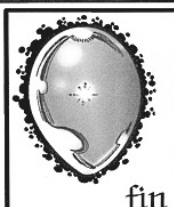
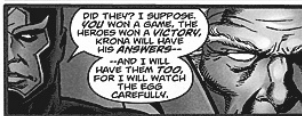
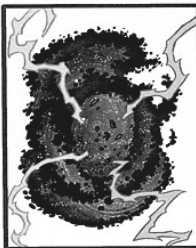
GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU.
ALL OF YOU.

AND NOW THAT WE'VE COME
TOGETHER...WORKED TOGETHER,
OVERCOME OUR DIFFERENCES...

...WE'RE
FORCED TO RETURN
TO INCOMPATIBLE
WORLDS.

BUT I SUPPOSE...
THAT'S HOW IT
HAS TO BE...

For
all things,
ultimately,
must have an
ending...



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